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C. W. WILLARD.

MONTPELIER, VT., MONDAY SEPT. 16, 1861.

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MONTPELIER, VT., MONDAY, SEPT. 16, 1861.

Che Daily Freeman.

From the Seat of War. CORRESPONDENCE OF THE FREEMAN. CAMP LYON, GEORGETOWN, D. C.,)

Sept 10th, 1861. EDITOR OF FREEMAN-Sir :-- A descrip-

tion of the country which we are now occupying, its institutions, manners, customs and inhabitants, may afford your readers some little gratification. There are many things relative to all of the above subjects that have passed under my observation that I could not heretofore parrate, as my military duties absorbed my whole time and attention. But I have been for most three weeks confined principally to my room by sickness, but am now convalescent, and find some leisure on my hands. I am more inclined to record some of these incidents and descriptions from the fact that I have been myself very much in error in regard thereto, and presume most of our Northern friends are in some degree in the same condition. I have seen the country up and down the Potomac for fifty miles or more, and have penetrated, at different points, some ways into the interior, and have had a fair chance to see and judge of the matters of which I propose to write. My error was, that I had sadly over-estimated the country itself, its institutions and inhabitants, and more than all, its progress in general improvements, and other things tending to the comfort and happiness of a community. One would have a right to suppose that the country along the banks of the Potomac, certainly in the immediate vicinity of the great National Capital, would exhibit some of the evidences of improvement and advancement in agriculture, and in the more important pursuits of life. In this, however, he is doomed to be disappointed. We often say that such a place is forty years behind the times. It may be said of this country that it is one hundred years behind. In New England, and generally in the Northern States, were we to pass from any few miles, and particularly if those towns or cities are situated on rivers of any considerable size, we naturally expect to see fine and highly cultivated farms with beautiful lawns and meadows luxuriant with the burden of their abundant vegetation, and the hill-sides teeming with flocks and herds, with horses of superior blood and style quietly grazing on their fertile slopes, while the hum of industry from the fields and the work-shops suggests to the traveler the activity of the hive that produces the honey. Again, the Northern traveler beholds as he passes from town to town, erected in quick succession and in such close proximity as to give the country in many places the appearance of a continuous village, dwellings of the most comfortable and substantial kind, accompanied with corresponding out-buildings; and often the dwellings present to the eye of the beholder architectural skill and proportions that have come down from classic ages and oriental lands. It is no uncommon thing to find dwellings intended for farming purposes, containing chaste designs from the Dorie, the Ionie, the Tuscan and the Corinchian, and in many instances combining some of the whole under the more useful or the composite order of architecture. We also find at the crossings of almost every road, and so interspersed between at frequent intervals, the school house, free to all to enter and obtain a competent education for most practical business pursuits; and as often as at every three crossings, towers aloft an Academy or Seminary, at which there is no telling how many things may be learned. And theu again our public roads and highways are of the most substantial kind, and all leading somewhere or to some place. Our churches also are among the noticeable things indicating refinement and advancement in the right direction. Again, our vehicles, and indeed and comparisons with this Southern land, but the above are sufficient for my purposes. Now

for the comparison. There are no fine meadows or lawns on the banks of the Potomac and other streams. Inquire of one of the natives the way to reach the banks of the Potomae, at any place except where roads have been worked to it, and he will give you a scratinizing look in the outset to see if you are crazy. But, after he concludes you are a Yankee, and will do benches were exactly like the old-fashioned They are all quite smart young men, and I the best he can to direct, giving you informa- settles that our grandfathers used to have believe all hold official positions in the retion something like this: Go up the river standing in the fire-place after they bought the spective armies. three miles, till you come to the head of a new stove. This institution had the usual creek that here runs between you and the appearance of being in full blast, and my cuinside the crock, till you come to where there books, to see what kinds were in use. I gate falling on him that he died the next day.

is a high point of rocks extending towards | found Johnson's Dictionary, one copy; three on them (minding your footing) until you come to the farther extremity, then pass (keeping well up so as to avoid the mire) till you get past the tall weeds so you can see out and see where you are. Now you will have to wade across the shallow water betill you get past the head of the big gulch, then bear away through the tall grass (looking out for rattlesnakes) until you get down right over opposite, and that will bring you to where you can see where the river is; now bear away to the right, minding the bogs and the mire, and if you meet with no mishap, you can soon pride yourself with standing on the banks of the Potomac.

The soil is very poor, and the surface broken and uneven, and the natives on either side count it a very poor country for agriculture, but the Virginians refer you to "up country," as being the Eden of the world. "Up the city of Alexandria, and is the place of country," with them, means in the direction learning for the urchins of the F. F. V.'s. of Loudon County. They are also unlike We should have thought it was designed for the people of the North in their manner of the "colored brudderin" if we had found a living. I have myself-and have often known | Bible and a Psalm Book; but these artithe soldiers and other officers to meet the cles did not appear. same experience-as we approached one of the most comfortable farms and farm-houses. one cow. But the same persons will have large, and jacks and mules in multitudes .--Potatoes seem not to favor this traitorous but because they are a sample of the whole. land. I think it they had good baked potatoes to eat occasionally, it would cure them not mean that there are no potatoes at all here, for we occasionally see an apology for potatoes, but I hardly know where they come

the masses. As to dwellings, they are of the cheapest on a scout. This school-house stood in a some Yankee yarn. neighborhood where the people claim to be ' some, and considerable more." They would that night.

the river; climb these rocks and keep along copies of the old " English Reader;" one copy of the " Art of Reading;" six sopies (ondly smoked) of "Marshall's Spelling Book;" around to the head of the swamp beyond three copies of " Peter Parley's Geography;" two copies of " Murray's Grammar," and one shocking bad copy of "Adams Old Arithmetic." In the "Schoolma'am's" drawer I found a copy of "Milton's Paradise Lost," yond the swamp, and then get on the other and a receipe for coloring the hair, and imhigh point of rocks, and keep down the river, proving the complexion. This led me to think the "Schoolma'am" must have been from New England. It seemed too modern for Virginia.

> Perhaps you will think my examination more minute than my military operations required, but in this land of rebellion most everything is excusable. Of course we Yankees estimated the expense of this schoolhouse, and concluded, -saying nothing about the stone for the chimney-that, including furniture, it must have cost twelve dollars and thirty-seven and a half cents. Now this

Within a short distance is the Church .-This Church has also been the scene of some stopped, and call for something to cat. We military operations, and has suffered some, can usually get such as they have, but when being pretty well riddled with bullet holes. we call for milk for our coffee, they inform It has a bell about the size of a locomotive us that they don't keep a cow. And this is bell, and some of the boys in their wantontrue to a wonderful extent. Men with hun- ness have shot a ball through it. I have tried dreds of acres of land, with any quantity of to think of some building in our town that I what might be tolerable pasturage, and with could liken this Church to, but I can't. It large families, don't keep the lawful number, is a new building, and is, like other of their public edifices, of a very rude construction. an endless number of hogs, all running at I speak of these two buildings not on account or any importance they possess in themselves,

We see here, outside of the cities, none of the modern improvements in farming utensils of their unhealthy, secession notions. I do and vehicles of various kinds, nor do we see any of the elegant horses and fine cattle with which our Northern States abound. Everything here is one hundred years behind us. from. We see no potatoes growing, and they | The farmers use a large clumsy kind of Dutch of our principal towns or cities through the readily bring one dollar and a half a bushel, wagon, and I honestly assert that I have seen suburbs, and so along into the country for a and farmers go to the markets and buy them, them at work with their teams consisting of where they have them for family use. Hoe four animals (they always drive a team of cake and bacon is the principal subsistnece of four) made up as follows : one horse, one stag, one mule, and a cow are harnessed with wooden harness, and straps and chains innukind. A painted house is not seen. The best | merable, all hitched to the old Dutch wagon, kind of country houses sometimes are white- with a darkey on the near wheel horse (stag) washed, as we whitewash our barns and pig- with one rein on the near leader; and thus pens. The internal arrangement also, is cal- they bring in their marketable articles to sell culated for anything else but comfort and to the Soldier Boys. You can of course imconvenience. And as for school-houses and agine the merriment and dry jokes that the churches, I wish you could see them. I can't boys perpetrate at the expense of such an eswrite about them without laughing. Per- tablishment, while darkey on the horse shows haps I ought not to say much of school- his ivory and shakes his sides, and Dutchy houses, for I have never seen but one in all sells his commodities and pockets his eash. my rambles in the Old Dominion, but that He is generally not troubled to sell his whole one I had a very intimate acquaintance with, load, however, as many a watermelon and having made it my fort on an occasion of an dozen of eggs " step out " unperceived by expected attack from the "varmints," while him, his attention being taken the while by

It is difficult for persons at a distance to realize the inconvenience, and in many inhave taken any intimation that they were stances suffering of the people who are so not of the F. F. V's., as a burning insult .- unfortunate as to live along on the line of I know this is so, for I had occasion to call | country between and near our army and that on one who termed herself a " maiden lady," of the Rebels. They are compelled to leave but whom I regarded a regular old maid .-- their homes and seek safety wherever they In the course of conversation I intimated can find it, and their houses and property are my surprise at the common-place and unin- left to whatever fate may befall them .teresting appearance of the country, and I notice that most fugitives who are between ventured the opinion that perhaps things fires come to our lines. Every day brings thereabouts did not compare favorably with men with their goods and families piled upon other parts of Virginia. I know I ought such conveyances as they have at hand, fleeing not to have said this, in view of Southern to avoid the horrors of standing or remaining pride, but I could not think of anything else exposed as they are. And many flee from the to say, unless I went to telling her how con- Southern side to avoid being pressed into the tounded ugly she looked herself, so I blun- Southern army. Men are obliged, in these indered in. Well, it would have done you stances, to make good their escape, leaving good to have seen and heard the way I got their families to be got over if possible. I set up" for my stupidity. She apprised know several, personally, who left about the me in very direct terms, that my judgment time of the Bull run battle, and who have was of very small account; and, what was been unable to hear from their families, many worse, I do really think I had up to this time of which were left in a state of destitution; all sorts of mechanical implements, remind created a very favorable opinion in the mind and they are not likely to receive any very tenthe traveler of the advancement of true Yan- of "Ophelia," and believe she intended to der mercies from those who would hang their kee enterprise. A thousand other things have invited me to stop to tea with her; but husbands and fathers for fleeing. I know of might be named with which to draw contrasts this kicked the whole plan over, and I had several instances where brothers are part on to eat "Uncle Sam's crackers" for supper one side and part on the other in their respective armies, fighting against each other. But to return to the school-house. It was There is a singular instance of this in this built of square timber, laid up the old block- neighborhood. There is an old man by the house fashion, and was about twelve feet name of Meines, who keeps a hotel not over for the reason that these rivers have no banks. square. The heating apparatus consisted of fifty rods from where I now board. He had a stone chimney laid up on one side of the a son who lived on the Virginia side, and two structure, so that the fire-place could be who lived on the Maryland side. At the reached from within, (and here let me say breaking out of hostilities, the one who lived this is the way most of the dwellings are on the Virginia side came over and joined built in this country.) The windows were himself with the Union forces, and the two satisfying himself that this is not the case, just large enough for port-holes, and the this side went over and joined the Rebels .-

On the 29th ult., Willard A., son of Ezekiel river, then follow down on the point of land riosity led me to look around among the Bixby, of Newfane, was so badly injured by a

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L. F. PIERCE, Agent may9

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has used it for many years, and recommends its use in the strongest terms.

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MONTPELIER, VT.

BOSTON JOURNAL, MORNING AND EVENING EDITION

POR sale at the Publisher's prices, by the subscriber, under J. R. LANGDON's Flour Store, or delivered to Village subscribers at their residences. Also, at by Stage or otherwise, cut of town. Moup elier May 25, 1861.

A. A SWEET-

South Hardwick Academy THE Fall Term of this Institution will commence Wednesday, Sept. 4, and continue eleven weeks.

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BOARD OF TEACHERS.

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The above Teachers have been carefully selected and we feel assured that no school in this part of the State offers more ample facilities for education than this. The building is spacious, neatly furnished, and well suited for the comfort of the student. The school is situated in the pleasant and thriving village of South Hardwick, easy of access, and surrounded by an intelligent community.

Particular attention will be given to those who wish to pursue a Classical Course, preparatory to entering College. It will be the aim of the teachers to teach, not isolated facts, but principles and their relations to each other; to teach practical knowledge, that the student may not go out into life like the booded messenger of the Savan, but with his knowledge classified and arranged, so that he with his knowledge classified and arranged, so that he may know how, when and where it is to be called into

use
The best manner of teaching the different branches will
be discussed in a class formed for the benefit of those intending to teach.

The Piano, Harmony and Thorough Bass will be thoroughly taught, and vocal music will be a daily exercise in

oughly taught, and school.

The debating society will give a good opportunity for speaking and writing, both to Ladies and Gentlemen.

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Board from \$1,50 to \$2,00, including room, washing,

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For tuition see small handbills.

For Rooms or Board apply to the Principal.

Bouth Hardwick, July 29, 1861. E. B. GUYER, Sec.